

**Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services
State Rehabilitation Council**

June 6, 2005

4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

**RI Department of Labor and Training
Center General Complex 73 (Main Conference Room)
1511 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920**

Meeting Minutes

Present from State Rehabilitation Council: William Anderson, Janice Belasco, Raymond Carroll, Domenic Di Orio, Robin Dolan, Craig Enos, Susan Donovan, Joseph Ferreira, Elizabeth Graves, Margaret Hoyer, David Sienko, Michaela Stannard

Present from Agency: Stephen Brunero, Regina Connor

1. Call to order and introductions - the Chair called the meeting to order at 4:10 P.M.

2. Old Business

- a. Additions or deletions to agenda - none
- b. Revue and approval of meeting minutes

Motion

C. Enos made a motion seconded by J. Belasco and unanimously accepted to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2005 meeting.

c. By-Laws Amendment – the Chair read through the additional language for inclusion into the By-Laws.

SECTION 2 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

"The Governor shall appoint members of the Council. The Governor shall select members after soliciting recommendations from organizations representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities and organizations interested in individuals with disabilities. The terms of service of the members initially appointed must be for varied numbers of years to ensure that terms expire on a staggered basis.

A Council member having been referred through the Nominating committee and having received approval by a majority vote of the Nominating committee to the Full Council for approval, and having received said approval by a majority of the Council and awaiting re-appointment by the Governor, shall continue in good standing,

with all the rights and privileges including the right to vote and hold office, until such time as the Governor's office delivers a letter of re-appointment or delivers a letter of revocation to the Director of The Office of Rehabilitation Services regarding said individual. In the event that an individual is not recommended for re-appointment, or chooses not to be re-appointed, the Governor is notified.”

The floor was opened for discussion; there was none.

Motion

C. Enos made a motion seconded by J. Belasco and unanimously accepted to include into the By-Laws the additional language.

3. New Business

a. Region I State Rehabilitation Council Forum

D. Di Orio spoke about the forum for training of SRC's. "Our reception was very positive, primarily because of the rapport that R. Carroll has established through his leadership at the regional level. Our presentation was well received. N. Baker did a lot of work to prepare us for this and it was greatly appreciated."

Uniqueness - Comment points

1. Other Councils in New England do not have our strong recruiting process.

2. The staff position was remarkable; other states do not have someone like N. Baker.
3. Other states do not have accommodations for new members; our members manual is special.
4. We also have the one-year apprenticeship time, and other councils do not have this.
5. Other SRCs looked at us as a leader in New England.

Commonalities - Comment points

1. All states have trouble maintaining membership especially in business and industry.
2. Our charge – the wider community that we serve. Many of our customers may be discouraged. We need to have greater advocacy. One of our goals should be that the SRC is a strong partner equal on par with ORS.
3. Subcommittees need to keep their reports to 5 minutes. We should try to keep in mind that the subcommittees are partners with the Chair and then with ORS.
4. We need to make sure that we value our responsibilities.

D. Di Orio closed by saying, "we all have something to offer and we should not take each other for granted."

J. Ferreira spoke about some of the things that impressed him at the training. "Everyone knew who R. Carroll was, and when someone asked a question he had an answer. Also, we should not take the

members manual that N. Baker puts together for us for granted. A lot of work goes into making it up. We should expand on it, and utilize it to our advantage. Other states were amazed that we had such a resource."

He enjoyed the forum and how it has put what were once separate links, together, to make a strong chain in New England.

R. Carroll added by saying that Rhode Island was so well represented. "The forum was customized for New England. Rhode Island does some things well and other states do other things well. One of the goals of this forum was to mix the positive things from all the states to improve effectiveness of the SRCs. He brought the packet with him from the training including a PowerPoint presentation CD that the SRC will use for training.

One of the major themes from this forum was the work of the Council is accomplished through its committees."

b. Subcommittees

Nomination and Leadership – Co-chair, J. Belasco presented two (2) new candidates for the Council's approval.

1. Lucille Massimino – represents the Health Care Industry. She is interested in alleviating the barriers to transportation.

2. Judi Drew – has a background in the Mental Health community.

Her concerns lie with policy issues, such as the ineffectiveness of Ticket to Work, and addressing transportation challenges.

Motion

D. Sienko made a motion seconded by J. Ferreira and unanimously approved to send letters of appointment for both candidates to the Governor for approval.

D. Sienko mentioned that the Nomination committee would be recruiting throughout the summer, and he asked for suggestions for a wider-reaching recruitment.

B. Anderson reminded the committee that the Department of Labor and Training had never responded to our initial letter inviting their office to appoint someone to the Council. He suggested that in the Fall the Council, through the Nomination committee, reinstitute contact with the DLT.

D. Sienko added that RIPTA should be put on the list for contacts. The new Director is very receptive and the Council should initiate contact with a letter.

R. Carroll mentioned that there is a committee of individuals with disabilities, the Rhode Island Transportation Advisory Committee, which work with RIPTA, which should be contacted.

Task:

- 1. Follow-up letter to DLT.**
- 2. Contact letter to RIPTA to set up a meeting with them.**
- 3. List of members of the Rhode Island Transportation Advisory Committee.**

Employment – Vice-chair, D. Sienko informed the Council that the committee met on Thursday to focus on the Strategic Marketing Plan. Additionally, the committee is looking at the Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment.

State Plan and Policy – Chair, J. Ferreira passed out a letter sent to ORS with the committee's comments on the State Plan.

Motion

D. Sienko made a motion seconded by D. Di Orio and unanimously approved to accept the comments by the State Plan and Policy committee to stand as the comments by the Council to the State plan.

D. Sienko asked that ORS send their comments to the Council as a written response. Additionally the Council would like to see the DLC comments and ORS's responses to DLC.

Action – ORS will send copies to the Council of DLC comments to the State Plan and ORS' remarks to both SRC and DLC comments.

c. Legislative Issues – none

d. ORS Administrator's Report – R. Carroll

- 1. RSA – has not gotten back to us with our report from their monitoring visit.**
- 2. Reauthorization of WEA - There is a House version and a Senate mark up version. In the mark up they have put that the RSA must be well staffed with people familiar with rehabilitation services. For now, Block Grants seem to be dead.**
- 3. Leadership Summit on Transition and the national meeting on transition conference in DC. (See attachment - Getting to the kids before they graduate)**
- 4. SBVI - A function for the 75th Anniversary of the Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2005 from 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. at the Radisson Airport Hotel. All Council members are invited to attend.**
- 5. Employer Honor Roll - planning is once again under way. Scheduled for 8 A.M., Wednesday, October 26, 2005, it is to acknowledge and honor the employers that hire individuals with disabilities. In October the SRC will receive a notification regarding this.**
- 6. Budget - Congress has passed the budget for 2006. We are still working on tying up the 2006 budget and are moving into the 2007 budget, which means we will be working on both, 06 and 07 planning.**

7. Personnel - ORS will be taking applications for a vacant supervisory position. And V. Williams has been hired as a Counselor. In our specialized unit for Deaf Services both our counselors are on family leave.

e. SRC Annual Report

Motion

D. Sienko made a motion seconded by C. Enos and unanimously approved to accept the Annual Report

4. Adjournment - the meeting was adjourned at 6 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy L. Baker, Staff

State Rehabilitation Council